

Application No.: 10/824, 165
Amendment Dated February 17, 2009
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2008
Attorney Docket No.: ERN-TSH-001

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method of making a truss using back-to-back "C" channel studs without requiring the use of a jig, comprising:

generating data identifying a plurality of structural stud members and the arrangement of those studs in accordance with a truss design, the structural stud members to be formed from a roll forming machine, the data for each stud including stud dimensions and one or more locations for an alignment guide;

forming using dimensions specified by the data a first "C"-channel stud using a roll-forming machine, the first "C" channel stud including a web, a flange, and a lip, the length and dimension;

forming using the roll-forming machine in the first "C" channel data a first alignment feature based on the locations in the data;

forming using dimensions specified by the data a second "C"-channel stud using the roll-forming machine, the second "C" channel stud including a web, a flange, and a lip;

forming using the roll-forming machine in the second "C" channel data a second alignment feature based on the locations in the data, the first "C"-channel stud and the second "C"-channel stud being formed to lengths specified by the data in accordance with the truss

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design and the alignment marks being located in positions to join the first and second

"C"-channel studs;

juxtaposing in accordance with the truss design the first and second "C"-channel studs back-to-back with the web of the first "C"-channel stud contacting the web of the second "C"-channel stud such that the first alignment feature and the second alignment feature are aligned; and

attaching the first and second "C"-channel studs to each other using fasteners, the alignment holes formed by the roll-forming machine providing a way for aligning and attaching the first and second "C"-channel studs without requiring a jig.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 in which the first alignment feature and the second alignment feature each comprises an alignment hole and in which juxtaposing the first and second "C"-channel studs such that the first alignment feature and the second alignment feature are aligned includes inserting an item into the first and second alignment holes.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 attaching the first and second "C"-channel studs to each other using self-drilling screws.

24. (currently amended) The A method of claim 21 in which making a truss using back-to-back "C" channel studs without requiring the use of a jig, comprising:

forming a first "C"-channel stud using a roll-forming machine, the first "C" channel stud including a web, a flange, and a lip, including forming on the roll-forming machine first "C" channel stud an assembly tag including information about assembling the stud to form the truss,

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forming using the roll-forming machine in the first "C" channel data a first alignment

feature;

forming a second "C"-channel stud using the roll-forming machine, the second "C"

channel stud including a web, a flange, and a lip;

forming using the roll-forming machine in the second "C" channel data a second

alignment feature;

juxtaposing the first and second "C"-channel studs back-to-back with the web of the first "C"-channel stud contacting the web of the second "C"-channel stud such that the first alignment feature and the second alignment feature are aligned; and

attaching the first and second "C"-channel studs to each other using fasteners, the alignment holes formed by the roll-forming machine providing a way for aligning and attaching the first and second "C"-channel studs without requiring a jig.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 in which forming a first alignment hole includes forming a first alignment hole on the centerline of the first "C"-channel stud and forming a second alignment hole includes forming the second alignment hole on the centerline of the second "C"-channel stud.

26. (new) The method of claim 24 in which forming on the roll-forming machine an assembly tag includes forming an assembly tag that that specifies the connections of the stud.

27. (new) The method of claim 24 in which forming on the roll-forming machine an assembly tag includes forming an assembly tag that that specifies the truss in which the stud is to be used.

28. (new) The method of claim 24 in which forming on the roll-forming machine an

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assembly tag includes forming an assembly tag that that specifies the length of the stud.

29. (new) The method of claim 24 in which forming on the roll-forming machine an assembly tag includes forming an assembly tag that that specifies the number of screws to be used proximal to the alignment hole that is next to the assembly tag.

30. (new) The method of claim 21 in which generating data identifying a plurality of structural stud members and the arrangement of those studs in accordance with a truss design includes identifying all the structural stuff members required to assemble and further comprising:

forming additional "C"-channel studs using the roll-forming machine, the additional "C" channel studs being sufficient to assembly the truss; and

forming using the roll-forming machine in the additional "C" channel studs alignment features for assembling the additional stud.

31. (new) The method of claim 21 in which forming using the roll-forming machine in the first "C" channel a first alignment feature based on the locations in the data includes forming a single alignment hole, the single alignment hole at each end of the stud, the alignment holes being positioned for aligning with the connecting stud in the truss.

32. (new) The method of claim 31 in which at least one of the two alignment holes are offset from a centerline of the stud.